

**MINUTES OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**
May 21, 2008 – 8:00 a.m. – Capitol Board room

Members Present:

President John L. Valentine, Chair
Speaker Greg J. Curtis, Vice-Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. David Clark
Rep. Brad King

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis

Staff Present:

Ms. M. Gay Taylor, General Counsel
Ms. Beverlee LeCheminant

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Speaker Curtis called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved to approve the minutes of the May 22 and October 17, 2007 meetings. The motion passed unanimously. President Valentine and Rep. King were absent for the vote.

2. Annual Performance Review of:

Legislative Auditor General

Mr. John Schaff distributed three graphs showing the number of audits completed by his office since 2002, the average hours per audit, and the recommendations implemented. He indicated that his office did more audits last year than any other year since he has been in the office. He stated that he feels that the audit function is moving in the direction the subcommittee asked them to go and that is to do more audits with reduced hours to produce the audits. Mr. Schaff said his office has a 25 percent reduction in the average hours per audit in the last three years compared to the three years previous, and 70 percent of recommended implementations are implemented before they go to the Audit Subcommittee. Mr. Schaff said his office has about a 90 percent record of recommendations implemented during the three years that he has been the Auditor General, but he indicated there is always room for improvement. He stated that his office is trying to do more on implementation by working closer with the agencies.

Mr. Schaff said he has a well-qualified office and about 75 percent are certified, CPA, CIA, or certified fraud examiner, and they have an attorney who is a member of the Utah State Bar. Mr. Schaff stated that there are 27 audit positions in his office, which is an increase of two over what there were when the office originated, and they currently have three unfilled positions.

Mr. Schaff said that his office appreciates the support of leadership and pledges to continue to do their best in providing accurate and timely information to the Legislature.

Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Mr. Jonathan Ball distributed and reviewed a list of his office's objectives for the coming year. He indicated that office morale and team building are his top priority. He is also focusing on interoffice

collaboration with the Legislative Auditor General's office and the Office of Legislative Research, and General Counsel, process efficiency and improved products for the legislators, and strengthening the legislative institution. He said that the office structure has been changed and is designed to achieve their goals and objectives by capitalizing on the strengths of all the employees who work there.

Mr. Ball stated that his office's goal is to serve the Legislature better and to be more efficient in helping the legislators.

Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Mr. Michael Christensen said four years ago his office started a survey process in asking the legislators how they are doing as an office. He distributed the April 2008 Survey Summary Sheets and reviewed the results with the subcommittee. Mr. Christensen indicated that the lowest score in the survey was the timeliness of bills being drafted and he said that the office will continue to work on that.

Mr. Christensen distributed and reviewed some comparative salary information that was put together by the three directors. He stated that the directors would like to suggest that the subcommittee consider providing a compensation and salary package for the three directors that would place them in the middle of the range of salaries of the executive branch's department directors and senior staff shown in the handout.

Speaker Curtis excused the three directors.

MOTION: President Valentine moved to give the increases recommended by staff so that each director will be making \$136,694.29 per year, which would equalize the salary of the staff directors. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker Curtis adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.